

ISSUES

SUNDAY, JAN. 31, 1993

GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

WASHINGTON

Associated Press photos



Keith Meinhold, whose lawsuit against the Navy helped focus national attention on the ban of gays in the military, stands on the front porch of his home in Palo Alto, Calif., in this photograph taken in November.

Meinhold was discharged from the Navy after he announced on a television that he was gay. On Thursday, a federal judge presiding over his case ruled that the ban was unconstitutional.

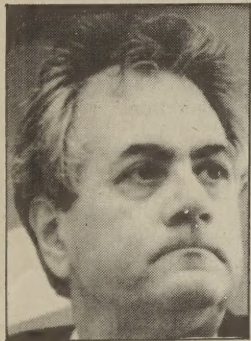
THE GAYS' SIDE

No regrets despite the heat

By Jill Lawrence/Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gay activists are undaunted by the beating President Clinton is taking on their behalf. The cause is just and the storm will pass, they say.

"Can you think of any issue that's more important than the freedom of 10 million people?" asked David Mixner, a Los Angeles consultant and civil rights veteran who has known Clinton for 24 years. "We have nothing closer to an apartheid law than this military ban."



Frank: Lawmaker says it is important for America to move to end prejudice.

Key Democrats, Republican rivals and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are among the groups that have come down on Clinton since it became clear he was serious about lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military.

But Clinton will formally revoke the ban on July 15, he announced Friday. And he said that in the interim, the Pentagon would be ordered to cease asking recruits about their sexual

orientation and halt new prosecutions and ousters of homosexuals in uniform. Ousters now in progress will be followed through.

The interim arrangement was endorsed by a gay rights group, the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "I think it is the necessary first step in keeping his promise," spokesman Tim McFeeley said. "The ban would be lifted."

The public, once solidly supportive of lifting the ban, now appears to be split. And Senate opponents plan to yoke a popular family leave bill to an amendment putting the military exclusion in law.

Despite the uproar, gay activists say they've no regrets about pressing the battle.

"It's very important for America to move toward ending prejudice. You never make any progress if you don't try," said Rep. Barney Frank, a gay lawmaker from Massachusetts.

"The gay and lesbian community certainly is not responsible for the controversy," added Robin Kane, spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "There's no regret that we are attempting to end discrimination. There's no regret in fighting for civil rights."

The backlash, most gay activists concede, has been worse than expected. Some blame senators for trying to obstruct the new president. Others cite the unusual involvement of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, particularly chairman Colin Powell.

"We didn't anticipate how effective Colin Powell's outspoken opposition would be. He has given legitimacy to some of the arguments that the religious right has been using. We're very disappointed at that," said Gregory King, spokesman for the 75,000-member Human Rights Campaign Fund.

While the military paints Clinton's impending

See GAYS/D4

BATTLE LINES DRAWN IN GAY DEBATE



Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is followed out of the White House by Defense Secretary Les Aspin after a two-hour meeting with President Clinton on Thursday. Nunn, who opposes lifting the ban on gays in the military, offered a compromise that he hoped would head off a congressional backlash that could weaken the week-old Clinton administration. Clinton announced the details of that compromise Friday.

THE MILITARY'S SIDE

It would hurt combat readiness

By Donald M. Rothberg/Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To the military, it's a matter of combat readiness and morale, a fear of promiscuous behavior. The Pentagon argues that banning gays is no different than rejecting single parents or overweight people.

President Clinton's plan to lift the ban would link it to a strict code of conduct. But opponents say that would be unworkable.

It would require gays to make "the equivalent of a pledge of celibacy," writes Army Maj. Melissa Wells-Petry in "Exclusion: Homosexuals and The Right to Serve."



Powell: Opposes President Clinton's plan to lift the ban on homosexuals.

"Celibacy, however, is widely regarded as an unrealistic standard of behavior, particularly among homosexuals," she writes in the book, scheduled for publication in May.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and an opponent of lifting the ban, said Wednesday that "it's not simply the right of homosexuals at

stake. It's also the right of all those men and women who serve in the military."

An Army lawyer stationed in Mainz, Germany, Wells-Petry wrote the book on her own. An Army spokesman said the work reflected "the views of the author" and was not an official document.

However, it clearly states the prevailing Pentagon position.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has called lifting the ban "one of the most difficult issues the armed forces has faced." Powell has made clear his opposition to Clinton's views on the subject but says the military will conform to official policy.

Col. William Woodruff, a retired Army lawyer, says that by admitting homosexuals the military would invite conduct that would lead to "disruption of cohesion, the disruption of good order and discipline."

Wells-Petry argues than banning gays from military service is a personnel issue no different from bans on single parents, overweight people and those who haven't completed high school.

"Such policies are not anti-anybody," she writes. "They are simply pro-military."

"Such policies are intended to give America the best possible fighting force," she says. "They are also designed to discriminate between those classes of individuals whose potential for successful soldiering is strong and those whose potential is weak."

Capt. Bill Buckner, an Army spokesman, confirmed that "we do not allow single parents to join the military for readiness reasons." However, he said that military personnel who become single parents can remain in the service so long as they arrange for approved child care.

See MILITARY/D4

COLORADO SPRINGS

THE TELEGRAPH

**FREEDOM
NEWSPAPERS**

Back to nature

It that already has been granted, the Sierra Club likely would have to court. All, it's a little bemusing that some, the name of environmentalism, would be upstage so momentous an event so many Coloradans, presided over the spiritual leader of nearly 1 billion Catholics worldwide. Moreover, the Cherry Creek location is a cry from the sort of pristine wilderness that environmental groups typically protect; the suburban park is one of the state's busiest, having taken in 1.3 million visitors last year. In words, the place is accustomed to cars. It is, after all, a park. Their zeal to protect the earth, like the Sierra Club must resist an to exclude people from it. Tempting might seem for some to view "nature" as a sacrosanct domain off-limits to humans, parks are intended especially for human enjoyment. To that end, Cherry Creek State Park will provide a beautiful setting for an event that means much to so many.

Doors open

And the United States continues to lead the world in most critical high-tech areas. Cellular telephones are just one example, with Motorola a key player. This month the Federal Communications Commission, reported The New York Times, "assigned a small block of frequencies for new satellite paging services that would let people send and receive brief messages anywhere on the globe." We have the lead in this area should expand across the globe. Soon it will be able to use an American-made satellite phone to link up to an American satellite, to talk with anyone with a compatible phone across the world. The ingenuity isn't dead. According to The Economist, America is conquering Japan with personal computers. In addition, "Just as ominous for these computer firms, American software companies — especially Microsoft, Novell, but also IBM and tiny Santa Operation — have tightened their grip on the worldwide computer business, making users more dependent on their firms." S firms," reports Forbes, "almost the Japanese mass market for software." A protectionist trade war would erupt out these American sales just as they are achieving dominance. Clinton should ignore the bogus "deficit" numbers. For information's sake, he should visit some firms and see how they operate and quality.

the strongest incentive to prompt and conservative precaution."

— Grover Cleveland

Schools are free in name only

We call our schools free because we are free to stay away from them until we are sixteen years of age."

— Robert Frost

Evil in good makes evil apparent

There cannot be a doubt that when the evil crimes of kings and governments weigh heaviest on the mind, we thank Christianity for it. That pure makes visible the darkness. . . . The love makes human hate stand out in relief. This sadness. . . is the heritage of the Christian."

— Alexander Smith
"Christmas" (1862)

CHUCK ASAY

IN THE OLDEN DAYS, IT WAS...



NOW IT'S...



LETTERS/Gazette Telegraph, Box 1779, Colorado Springs 80901 FAX (719) 636-0202 Modem 636-0127

We must work together on #1

The interpretation of Amendment 1 continues to consume the majority of the General Assembly's time. Most recently, legislation I am sponsoring has been the subject of the debate.

The original language of Senate Bill 98 is broad. It states that, with regard to Amendment 1, odd-year elections should cover any issue aside from recall measures. The bill was heard before the Senate Judiciary Committee and they interpreted this section of Amendment 1 differently. They believe that odd-year elections should cover only tax and finance matters.

Who is right? I honestly don't know. In fact, that is why I agreed to carry the bill. My intent was to use this legislation as a vehicle to eventually get the Colorado Supreme Court involved with the decision-making process.

With the passage of Amendment 1, Colorado's voters have made their intent clear. They want to hold the line on government spending and taxes. However, fulfilling the voters' intentions without complete chaos requires a lot of discussion and interpretation at every level. The legislative, executive and judicial branches of government must work together to carry out the will of the people.

— Ray Powers
State Senator
Colorado Springs

Don't judge; we are all human

I would like to respond to Nancy Nylander's letter on Jan. 24, "2's opponent's 'bleating sheep.'" You said, "Few people can behave in a way contrary to a crowd for very long." You will be surprised to know that the free-thinking, non-conformists of this state are alive and well.

It is ironic that you believe that we independent thinkers are the "sheep" rather than people who unquestioningly follow "the time-proven standards of right and wrong." How do you define "right and wrong" and what gives you the right to judge those who would question it? As human beings, we are given the power to question using logic. If "God" wanted sheep to be the highest life forms on this planet, He/She would not have made humans.

I am not writing about Amendment 2 specifically, but about any

issue where the self-righteous come out on top by condemning those with "unpopular" views. I believe diversity is the key to a well-rounded and understanding society.

To illustrate what happens when the society is run by too many "sheep," I have to refer to Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, Cambodia or the atrocities committed by the early Catholic Church. The list goes on. Do you want this to happen? I do not think so.

I am not saying that your beliefs are wrong. Far from it. I think any belief system is dangerous when taken to the extreme. I also think that every belief system has something valuable to offer when looked at with an open mind.

Please keep this in mind. Narrow-mindedness closes you off from the rest of the world. I'm not saying that you should "like" everything, but before you judge someone, whether it's their racial heritage, their religion, their gender or who they love, look at yourself first. You will find that we are all human.

— Stephen Doyle
Colorado Springs

No statehood for D.C.

The fallacy of the very idea of statehood for the District of Columbia should strike most Americans as ludicrous, but as the adherents of the scheme attest, they are as serious as a broken back.

The guest commentary in the opinion section of the Gazette Telegraph on Jan. 22 denotes only the very shallowness of the idea, in that it brings to the fore the concept of size. I'm not certain that there are any constraints as to the size of what a state should be, but it is my opinion, for what it's worth, no state can or should be the seat of power representatively, judicially and executively to the other 50 states; that is why it is a special district!

There should be some minimum standards for a state: be self-supporting; have a product of value to barter with the rest of the national community; contribute to the collective good of the center of American government, and not be an entity solely supported by the largess of its sister states.

Fine, let Washington, D.C., become a state. It already has state-size crime, not to mention the political type, of which it also has plenty. But to become a state, it must lose its only source of income — the fleecing of the rest of America. What would be left? A state of monuments and dreams of

by-gone glory, and probably one of the best places to carry out the war on drugs.

If Washington, D.C., needs statehood, return to Maryland those portions donated to create the district in the first place. I'm sure there are other, more beknighted states that will give up territory to provide a governmental district for the nation.

— George B. Anderson Jr.
Colorado Springs

Clinton is no Tom Jefferson

Now that the most expensive inauguration on record is finally behind us, I hope that our new president will stop comparing himself to Thomas Jefferson. To paraphrase Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of several years ago: Mr. Clinton, I am a student and admirer of Thomas Jefferson, and Mr. Clinton, you are no Thomas Jefferson.

Outside of your middle name and the bus trip from Charlottesville to Washington, D.C., which retraced Jefferson's inaugural route, the similarity ended when you stepped off the bus. If Jefferson were alive today, he would be appalled at the size of government and all of the utter waste that goes with it. I can assure you he would have nothing to do with the Democratic Party, or the Republican Party either, for that matter.

Perhaps our new president would have been better served by following an inaugural route from Hyde Park, N.Y. After all, it was FDR who began the daily care and feeding of Americans, all in our own best interest, of course. Now we can't seem to wean ourselves off of Uncle Sam, and with the Democrats on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, it is inevitable that this government will grow to new heights. It is in the Democrats' blood.

Mr. Clinton, you said what you had to in order to get elected, now please play the typical politician and break those campaign promises. They're budget busters.

— Paul Doll
Colorado Springs

LETTERS WELCOME

The Gazette Telegraph welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and telephone number for verification. No unsigned letters will be published. The GT reserves the right to edit or to refuse to publish any letter.

Letters may be sent via personal computer at 636-0127. The maximum modem baud rate is 2400. Protocol is 8 data bits, one stop bit, no parity.

taxpayer has to.

DRIVING AGE

■ I am over 60 years of age, and I am certainly a much better driver than those who have never observed posted speed limits. I'm talking about the people who cut in front of everyone to reach a red traffic light only to sit there while we catch up with them. We will be in a predicament if all of our drivers are the reckless and impatient ones between the ages of 20 and 50.

■ I think some of the people who complain about older drivers are the type of people who tailgate me just because I drive the speed limit, and they think that the speed limit doesn't apply to them.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

■ The City Council refuses to put on a ballot the question of whether the citizens want to keep Memorial Hospital under city control, but the council is happy to include its issue of how many council votes are required to fire the city manager and

whether or not council members should be paid. If this is an indication of their evaluation of public sentiment, they should not be paid but replaced.

■ Colorado Springs should sell Memorial Hospital. We cannot afford the risks involved in financing a new hospital. What is the true potential liability for taxpayers?

■ Empty hospital beds plague hospitals nationwide. Local hospitals are no exception. Hospitals compete for the existing market. One approach is to build new hospitals with improved facilities to capture the lion's share of the market, but even then, any shortfall has to be offset by increased costs for a hospital stay.

CLINTON, GAYS IN UNIFORM

■ I voted for Bill Clinton, and now he is spending all his time trying to get homosexuals into the military instead of trying to create jobs and see to other pressing needs. He sure has his priorities messed up.

■ Bill Clinton ran as a moderate, new Democrat, but his liberal arrogance and pseudo-omniscience is already getting in the way. How else can one ex-

plain his stand on reversing the ban on homosexuals in the military, in opposition to 50 years of military policy and the more than 150 years of military experience of the joint chiefs of staff? This is the same individual who showed complete disdain for his country's military during the Vietnam War. Old habits are definitely hard to break.

■ It appears obvious that President Clinton is pushing gays in the military as hard as he is because it is the only one of his campaign promises that he can follow through on.

■ Chuck Asay's cartoon on homosexuals in the military serves no better purpose than to display an unchecked fear that sanctions and encourages insensitivity. We are mired in a great civil war right now within our nation over the issue of homosexuality. We must ask ourselves in the decades to come if we will be able to look back on our individual roles in the struggle and be proud of how we acted.

■ President Clinton apparently has no qualms about reneging on his campaign promise of relief for middle-income taxpayers. Why should he be so sanctimonious about keeping his campaign promise on gays in the military?

ISSUES

Knight-Ridder Tribune

PASSINGS

Here are some of the notable deaths reported in the past week:

JAN GIES, who risked his life to smuggle food to Anne Frank and members of the Dutch underground during World War II, died of kidney failure Tuesday in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He was 87.

Gies and his wife, Miep, gained international renown through Anne Frank's best-selling diary of her two years in hiding under Nazi occupation.

Miep Gies had worked for the pectin trading firm owned by Anne's father, Otto, and smuggled food to the Franks and the other Jews in the camouflaged annex above the firm where the Franks hid. It was Jan Gies, at the time a municipal welfare department employee, who got the ration coupons his wife needed to buy the extra food for the Franks and the others.

THURGOOD

MARSHALL, the retired Supreme Court justice who championed the rights of the powerless, died last Sunday of heart failure at Bethesda Naval Hospital outside Washington, D.C.

As a civil rights attorney for more than 20 years, Marshall was credited with breaking down centuries-old legal barriers to equality. As a Supreme Court justice for 24 years, he remained a passionate and powerful voice for the disadvantaged. He retired in 1991.

His most famous victory as an attorney was in the case of Brown vs. Board of Education, which led the Supreme Court in 1954 to outlaw racially segregated public education.

HENRY PLITT, a much-decorated World War II paratrooper who later founded a nationwide theater chain, died of pancreatic cancer Tuesday in Beverly Hills, Calif. He was 74.

Plitt started his Plitt Theatres chain after the war, building it to 600 screens before selling to Cineplex Odeon Corp. in 1985.

He was chairman of Plitt Amusement Co., which owns nine Washington state theaters, and head of Showscan Corp., which is developing a film process to enhance on-screen quality.

As a member of the 101st Army Airborne Division in World War II, Plitt took part in parachute invasions of occupied Holland and France. He won four Purple Hearts and several Silver and Bronze stars.

Gazette Telegraph news services

ON THE AGENDA

Here are some of the major events scheduled for this week:

MONDAY, Feb. 1

Washington — Members of National Governors' Association meet with President Clinton.

New York — "Simpsons Comics and Stories," first comic book about the cartoon family, goes on sale.

Bemidji, Minn. — Hearing for TV reporter and cameraman accused of buying beers for party where they filmed teen-agers drinking for story.

Tampa — Opening arguments in trial of retired general Wallace Nutting, accused of plot to bilk government out of more than \$40 million.

TUESDAY, Feb. 2

Washington — Senate Intelligence Committee holds confirmation hearing on nomination of James Woolsey as director of Central Intelligence.

Punxsutawney, Pa. — Punxsutawney Phil predicts whether nation will have early spring or six more weeks of winter. Groundhog Day ceremonies also planned for Sun Prairie, Wis., and New York's Staten Island Zoo.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3

Jarratt, Va. — Scheduled execution of Mickey Wayne Davidson for slayings of his wife and two stepdaughters.

Starke, Fla. — Scheduled execution of Larry Joe Johnson for 1979 robbery and murder of service station worker.

Los Angeles — Jury selection begins in federal civil rights case against four police officers involved in Rodney King beating.

THURSDAY, Feb. 4

Wausau, Wis. — Sentencing for 14-year-old boy who strangled 11-year-old sister.

Philadelphia — Edward "Fast Eddie" Savitz, AIDS-infected businessman, goes on trial on charges of abusing boys; authorities fear he has infected hundreds of teens.

FRIDAY, Feb. 5

Hillsboro, Ore. — Sentencing scheduled for Sue Gifford, convicted of kidnapping her elderly father and abandoning him at an Idaho race track.

SATURDAY, Feb. 6

Orono, Maine — Ross Perot visits Maine, first stop on national tour promoting his "United We Stand America" group.

Gay military policy in other countries

Here's how selected countries handle the issue of gays in the military:

	Prohibits enlistment	Discharges if found in the service	Doesn't ask questions	Doesn't discharge, but discriminates	Permits gays to serve
Canada			✓	✓	
Denmark			✓		✓
France			✓		✓
Germany			✓	✓	
Italy	✓	✓			
Norway			✓		✓
Britain	✓	✓			
Australia			✓		✓
Israel			✓	✓	
U.S.	✓	✓			

*But may be discharged if inappropriate behaviors are displayed
Source: Defense Department

Gays more accepted in others' militaries

Many still choose to stay in the closet

By Jessica Baldwin
Associated Press

LONDON — Gays have been openly accepted in the armed forces of many major U.S. allies without the controversy that now faces President Clinton. But many homosexuals in uniform still find it prudent to stay in the closet.

In the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization, only the United States, Greece, Turkey and Britain still ban homosexuals in the military. Russia, Japan and major Latin American nations also forbid gays in uniform.

In NATO nations France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark, gays are allowed to serve, but they are disciplined if their homosexuality enters the barracks. The same holds true in Finland and Israel.

Foreign experience with allowing gays in the military could influence eventual U.S. policy. Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Wednesday that the United States should give special consideration to how the issue has been handled by its NATO allies.

Australia ended its ban on gays in the military in November, and controversy over the move died down a month later.

To some Europeans, the uproar over Clinton's determination to end formal discrimination against homosexuals is baffling.

"Homosexuality doesn't create problems at all. We don't have the square view on the matter as the Americans have," said Capt. Michael Laustsen, a military spokesman in Denmark, where gays are allowed to marry and gay military spouses receive the same death and disability benefits as het-

erosexual ones.

But openly homosexual behavior still works against the gay soldier's acceptance, even in the most liberal countries.

"The Swedish system is built on the fact that the individual keeps it to himself," said Sweden's military press spokesman.

In Australia, no uniformed gays have declared themselves despite their new legal status.

"I'm not surprised," said Brig. Gen. Adrian D'Hage, spokesman for the Australian Defense Force. "A lot of them are decent people who keep their private lives private and who want to get on with their job."

In Finland and Italy, gay draftees can seek exemption from one-year mandatory military service, but few do.

As long as the soldier doesn't disturb the atmosphere in the barracks or create a "problem" for colleagues, he can make the military a career, said an Italian Defense Ministry spokesman.

The Netherlands' military has an education program to foster tolerance and understanding that earned Defense Minister Ruus van Beek a medal from the nation's leading gay advocacy group.

Yet Alex Sheerazi, spokesman for the union of conscripted soldiers in the Netherlands, said some gays may not want to come out of the closet because of the "fairly macho culture" of the army.

In Germany, gays are banned from holding leadership positions and each year there is a handful of disciplinary actions against homosexual officers. One company sergeant was recently demoted when he was caught having sex with a corporal on base.

In Britain, there is growing opposition to the ban. In June the government dropped criminal penalties for homosexuality in the military.

"It takes place anyway, and in general it goes unpunished, so why not allow it openly?" former Defense Secretary Denis Healey said last week.

Military/Morale problems feared

From D1

In her book, Wells-Petry says that the homosexual ban was challenged 12 times in court and upheld in every case.

"A substantial and virtually unanimous body of law affirms the constitutionality of the homosexual exclusion," she writes.

But on Thursday in Los Angeles, a federal judge ruled that the banning of homosexuals from the military service merely because of sexual orientation violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection to all citizens.

Gays/Basic civil rights at issue

From D1

move as a morale blow that could erode the nation's ability to defend itself, the gay community compares its cause to earlier movements on behalf of blacks and women.

"What we're really seeing is the last major chapter in the 200-year-old story of civil rights . . . the last major unfinished business in that struggle," said Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., another gay congressman.

Clinton and his advisers "got a real education in the last couple of months" on the inflammatory politics of gay civil rights, said Mixner, the Los Angeles consultant.

King said Clinton's resolve has sent a message not only to gays but to Capitol Hill. "Once it was clear he was standing firm, we began building more support," he said. He predicted a Senate vote at this point would go Clinton's way.

The decision came in the case of Keith Meinhold, 30, a Navy sonar operator who was discharged after he announced on a TV program that he was gay.

Wells-Petry also argues that allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military would not eliminate the potential for them to be targeted by hostile intelligence agencies.

"The argument that homosexuals would no longer be security risks once the ban were lifted assumes . . . that most homosexuals desire the disclosure of their sexual preference."

Gay activists contend that Republicans proved with their convention last summer that voters don't like intolerance. And they say Clinton's stand on principle will win him points in the end, even from people who disagree with him.

They also predict the outcry will subside the instant Clinton delivers his economic plan to Capitol Hill. And they point to history, particularly the racial integration of the military and the 1960s civil rights movement, as proof that they'll prevail.

"I've seen the most hostile, ugly reaction in the South to just registering one voter. Twenty years later you go to the same counties and see blacks holding office," said Mixner. "You keep a perspective, you become a long-distance runner. A year from now, people are going to wonder what the big deal was."

of darkness devoid of hope

you can do anything — sometimes in the name of art, sometimes in the name of sexual kicks, sometimes in the name of the state. It is a concession we cannot afford to make — the first step on the road to Auschwitz and the Gulag Archipelago.

Discussing the arts controversy on "Phil Donahue" two years ago, I told Tim Rollins, a young artist on the panel who works in the South Bronx helping children transmute violence into art, that Robert Mapplethorpe might have benefitted greatly from working with him. He replied that Mapplethorpe's violence was between consenting adults. I asked him if he also thought that the consent of his followers in Jonestown exonerated the Rev. Jim Jones.

"Jim Jones," he answered, "was not an artist." This is a succinct expression of the feeling prevalent in our culture that there is one moral standard for ordinary mortals and another for artists.

"Just pronounce the magic word, 'art' and everything is OK," wrote George Orwell 45 years ago in an essay on Salvador Dali. "So long as you can paint well enough to pass the test, all shall be forgiven you." And then he made the ultimate pronouncement not only on Dali but on the whole debate on art and morality:

"One ought to be able to hold in one's head simultaneously the two facts that Dali is a good draftsman and a disgusting human being. The one does not invalidate, or, in a sense, affect the other. The first thing we demand of a wall is that it shall stand up. If it stands up it is a good wall, and the question of what purpose it serves is inseparable from that. And yet even the best wall in the world deserves to be pulled down if it surrounds a concentration camp. In the same way it should be possible to say, 'This is a good book or a good picture, and it ought to be burned by the public hangman.' Unless one can say that, at least in imagination, one is shirking the implications of the fact that an artist is also a citizen and a human being."

Our culture would do well to take Orwell's words to heart. The rest of us have a duty to distinguish constantly between the true and the false. And perhaps to follow the example of the small boy in the fairy tale who had the courage to cry out that the emperor wore no clothes.

Our secular culture is finding it increasingly hard to satisfy on a purely aesthetic diet the

With an almost pathetic desperation, we overestimate the significance of everything "artistic," including Andy Warhol's cookie jars, with ever-diminishing emotional returns . . . it is the connection between the aesthetic and the ethical that gives art its dignity, its meaning and its power.

spiritual instinct in us that longs for a larger meaning. With an almost pathetic desperation, we overestimate the significance of everything "artistic," including Andy Warhol's cookie jars, with ever-diminishing emotional returns. But aestheticism — the notion that all of existence can be sanctified as an aesthetic phenomenon — is exhausted. Its champions, still dominating the art world while fighting off a nasty case of existential dread, have failed to recognize that it is the connection between the aesthetic and the ethical that gives art its dignity, its meaning and its power.

It is not an explicit socio-realistic connection made by the artist, but a connection made within ourselves when art pierces through all the crusts of our narrow interests and preoccupations and liberates the truth and the vision of wholeness we carry within us.

Huffington, a writer, lecturer and broadcaster, is the author of the book, "Picasso: Creator and Destroyer." This essay is adapted from a speech she gave last year at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich. It is reprinted with permission from Imprimis, the monthly journal of Hillsdale College.

Age falls flat with baby boomers



narian. His share of the vote among people from age 40 to 44 was no higher than his share among the electorate as a whole.

Inspiring tepid affection from his fellow boomers, Clinton had to look high and low for support, and high and low is exactly where he found it. His best showing in November was with the oldest voters and the youngest — the Medicare set and the MTV generation. Those age 65 and over gave him a 50-39 percent margin over their fellow graybeard, George Bush (the only group that gave Clinton anything resembling an actual majority), and those under 25 preferred him by 46 percent to 33 percent.

On matters of general political outlook, Clinton is also badly out of step with his co-generationists. His inaugural speech broke with Ronald Reagan and George Bush by quoting Franklin Roosevelt's call for "bold, persistent experimentation." But far from being weary of conservative policies and eager for can-do activism, baby boomers apparently have concluded from years of experience and observation that an increase in the amount of money collected by the Internal Revenue Service will only mean an increase in the amount of money vanishing down rat holes.

Asked in November exit polls whether they'd prefer a government that costs more but provides more or one that costs less but provides less,

voters chose the latter by a gaudy margin of 55 percent to 38 percent. But the greatest opposition to bigger government came from those in the 40 to 44 age group, where the gap was 62-31 percent. Among those in their 30s, 56 percent wanted less government.

In fact, only one age group disagreed — the 18- to 24-year-olds. Fifty-four percent of them favored an expansion of Leviathan, which may owe something to the fact that they have little acquaintance with the obligation of paying for it. Certainly they had no trouble judging which presidential candidate was more likely to fulfill their preference.

What is clear is that the people who bear the burden of paying for government programs — the baby boomers and others in their prime working years — are not crazy about Clinton or his political vision. Those who are least likely to pay much in taxes (the young) and those who get the most goodies from Washington (the old), however, embrace him as an ally, and with good reason.

Clinton and Gore might like to think that being a baby boomer earns you special affection from baby boomers. Barry Manilow might like to think the same thing, but that wouldn't make it so.

Chapman is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

ing tide of political correctness

anding "diversity" and al coercion is being employed snuffing out VMI's

while adhering to the principle that the 14th Amendment does not per se proscribe single-sex education, also held that VMI's all-male policy is an unconstitutional denial of "equal protection" unless and until Virginia either stops supporting VMI or provides an identical program for females.

The court did not explain how to square this circle: What is, for females, identical to a system suited only for adolescent males? (By the way, women so inclined can participate in the corps of cadets at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.)

Now VMI is asking the Supreme Court to review this ruling which, if allowed to stand, will sow uncertainty, and hence litigation, about such questions as:

Can a public school operate a single-sex sports team — say, a football team — without providing an identical opportunity for the other sex to participate in the same sport?

Can Virginia continue to give substantial state assistance, through tuition subsidy programs, to five private women's colleges as long as there are not comparable and comparably assisted men's colleges?

Can government provide facilities for one sex (for example, for battered wives) merely because

the policy is based on actual differences between the needs of the sexes?

Are state-run "boot camp" penal programs for young men impermissible unless there are identical programs for young women?

Court-created confusion is particularly unfortunate regarding permissible educational policies. A 30-year rush to coeducation has radically reduced the number of single-sex educational opportunities. But much recent research suggests that single-sex education can be helpful for some young people in some settings (such as inner city adolescent males). Fear of litigation will inhibit potentially useful experimentation.

Notice that in the name of expanding "diversity" and enlarging freedom, governmental coercion is being employed to make schools more alike, by snuffing out VMI's nonconformity. Although the Bush administration participated in this bullying, VMI should expect no better from the new crowd.

VMI's corps of cadets marched in President Truman's 1949 inaugural parade and in all but two of the next 10. (It was invited both of those times, but one parade fell during exam week, and the other would not have included the entire corps so VMI declined.) VMI was not invited to participate in President Clinton's parade and it is permissible to suspect that the reason was VMI's deviation from political correctness.

When Clinton's parade had passed, his administration buckled down to the pressing business of opening the military to gays and lesbians. The issue, his administration says, is tolerance of diversity.

Will is a syndicated columnist.